

## Message Text

SECRET

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67

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ ARP: FMDICKMAN: JMP

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APPROVED BY NEA: ALATHERTON

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NEA - MR. DAVIES ( SUBS)

NEA/ IRN - MR. MIKLOS ( SUBS)

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O 120117 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

SECDEF/ ISA

S E C R E T STATE 068074

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU, IR, US

SUBJ: KUWAITI REQUEST FOR AIR COVER

REF: ( A) TEHRAN 2333, ( B) KUWAIT 1159, ( C) STATE 66152

1. IN LIGHT OF REF ( B) AND OTHER INDICATIONS WE RECEIVING THAT KUWAIT CURRENTLY REASSESSING ITS MILITARY PLANNING AND STRATEGY INCLUDING ITS SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, WE STILL THINK IN CONTEXT OF OUR LONG RANGE POLICY OF ENCOURAGING REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR GULF SECURITY THAT IRANIAN OPTION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. ACCORDINGLY, UNLESS YOU HAVE OVERRIDING OBJECTIONS, YOU SHOULD INFORM IRANIANS AT LEVEL YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE OF KUWAIT APPROACH TO US FOR ADVICE ON HOW ESTABLISH AIR COVER AND FEEL THEM OUT ON REPLY WE PROPOSE GIVE

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KUWAITIS OUTLINED IN PARAS 2 AND 3 OF REF ( C). YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT WE PROPOSE GIVE THIS ADVICE SINCE THERE NO FEASIBLE WAY WE KNOW OF IN WHICH KUWAIT CAN ACQUIRE BY PURCHASE INSTANT AIR COVER OF ITS OWN. YOU SHOULD ALSO SAY THAT IN CIRCUMSTANCES, AND GIVEN IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING MOVES TOWARD REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AMONG MODERATE STATES IN GULF, OCCURS TO US THIS IS GOOD OCCASION AT MINIMUM TO BEGIN HABIT OF KUWAIT- IRANIAN CONSULTATIONS.

YOU SHOULD ADD THAT W BE TAKEN.

4. SAME DAY BAU LOC ICCS MET AND DECIDED TO REPORT INCIDENT TO REGIONAL ICCS. ALSO SAME DAY HUNGARIAN DELEGATION REPORTED INCIDENT OT ICCS IN SAIGON. THIS STATEMENT TO ICCS READ TO EMBOFF AT MFA IN ENGLISH, BUT COPY NOT PROVIDED. WHEN ASKED WHETHER STATEMENT COMMUNICATED TO US AUTHORITIES IN VIETNAM, MFA OFFICIALS ANSWERED THEY DID NOT KNOW. STATEMENT RECAPITULATED BAU LOC INCIDENT. ADDITIONALLY IT SAID ICCS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN PHAN THIET UNABLE TO CONTACT BAU LOC, BECAUSE COMMUNICATION LINE DEAD. IN LIGHT OF THIS DEPLORABLE INCIDENT, HUNGARIAN DELEGATION RESERVED RIGHT TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO QUESTION OF WHETHER TO CONTINUE TO STATION ITS PERSONNEL AT BAU LOC. STATEMENT ALSO REPORTED THAT HUNGARIAN COMMANDER AT ICCS REGION 4 HAD REQUESTED AN EMERGENCY MEETING TO HAVE BAU LOC INCIDENT INVESTIGATED FURTHER.

5. THIRD INCIDENT CITED BY MFA DID NOT INVOLVE HUNGARIAN PERSONNEL SPECIFICALLY. THIS HAD TO DO WITH DEMONSTRATION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONS BEFORE ICCS HEADQUARTERS IN SAIGON ON APRIL 2.

6. MFA REQUESTED US INTERVENTION OF BASIS PARIS AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL TO ENSURE THAT HUNGARIAN ICCS PERSONNEL WOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES IN SAFETY. WHEN ASKED WHETHER OTHER MEMBER NATIONS OF ICCS HAD COMMUNICATED THESE INCIDENTS TO US, MFA ANSWERED IT DID NOT KNOW. CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS A UNILATERAL STOP ON PART GOH.

7. COMMENT: GOH CLEARLY BUILDING A RECORD IN USING THESE ALLEGED INCIDENTS TO COUNTER RECENT SPECIFIC EXAMPLES CITED BY US IN OUR PROTESTS RE THE HUNGARIAN ROLE IN THE ICCS. GOH ALSO CONSTRUCTING CASE WITH THESE ALLEGED INCIDENTS IN DEMONSTRATING INTERFERENCE OR HARRASSMENT BY SAIGON GOVERNMENT IS THE REAL REASON FOR PARALYSIS OF ICCS AS COUNTER TO INCRIMINATION OF PRG/ DRV IN DOWNING ICCS CHOPPERS.

PUHAN

CONFIDENTIAL

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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**TAGS:** MASS, IR, KU, US  
**To:** / ISA  
AMMAN  
JIDDA  
KUWAIT  
TEHRAN  
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